- Emphasis on land reforms with particular reference to tenancy laws, distribution of ceiling suplus land and consolidation of land holdings.
- Provision for supply of quality inputs—seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides etc.
- Bridging knowledge gap to tackle soil and crop health through balanced use of nutrients and proper crop management.
- Emphasis on technology, training and extension, credit and insurance.
- Stepping up capital investment in agriculture.

Some of the recommendations are already covered in the national agricultural policy. The rest are under consideration of the Government. The Union Budget 2007-08 makes a number of proposals to improve the economic viability of farming and ensure that farmers earn a minimum net income.

Wheat production

1187. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the last five years have been witnessing a downward swing of wheat production from 76 to 65 million tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this production shortfall has emerged as the indisputable cause for high wheat prices; and

(c) whether country, which was the seventh largest exporters of wheat a few years ago, would be the largest wheat importer this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The wheat production during the last 5 years i.e., 2002-03 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Wheat Production
2002-03	65.76
2003-04	72.16
2004-05	68.64
2005-06	69.35
2006-07*	72.50

*2nd advance estimates released on 05.02.2007.

It may be seen from the above table that the wheat production has been fluctuating from year to year during the last 5 years between 65.8 and 72.5 million tonnes.

(b) The shortfall in domestic production is one of the reasons for the high wheat prices. The decline in world production of wheat and the consequent increase in international prices also affected the domestic prices of wheat.

(c) During the year 2006-07, the major seven wheat importing countries alongwith the estimated quantity imported are given below:

(Million Tonnes)

Country	Wheat Imported
Brazil	7.8
Egypt	7.0
European Union	7.0
India	6.5
Japan	5.3
Algeria	4.6
Indonesia	4.8

Source: FAO "Food Outlook No. 2 December 2006.

From the above table, it may be seen that India is the 4th largest wheat importing country during 2006-07.

Investment in R&D sector

1188. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the 1999 report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) which says that an additional 100 billion rupees if invested in agricultural R&D would increase productivity growth by 6.98 per cent; and

(b) if so, how much amount of money, so far, invested in agricultural R&D during the last five years and the impact in productivity growth in agriculture?